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**Amendments to the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c):**

1. (Currently amended) A field-installable fusion spliced ~~optical~~ fiber optic connector kit comprising:
  - a ferrule block subassembly comprising:
    - a fiber optic stub;
    - a ferrule, the ferrule having a longitudinal bore therethrough, wherein the fiber optic stub is held in the longitudinal bore and an end of the fiber optic stub extends beyond the ferrule; and
    - a disposable ferrule handling block, the disposable ferrule handling block being ~~used~~ adapted for holding the ferrule during ~~the an~~ assembly process for a fiber optic connector; and
  - a splice cover handling block subassembly comprising:
    - a crimp body;
    - a spring;
    - a splice cover, the splice cover having a first end and a second end and a longitudinal passage ~~between~~ extending from the first end to the second for housing a fusion splice of the fiber optic stub; and
    - a disposable splice cover handling block, wherein the disposable splice cover handling block is ~~used~~ adapted for holding the crimp body, the spring, and the splice cover during the assembly process.
2. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the disposable splice cover handling block having a first end and a second end, the first end of the disposable splice cover handling block having a plurality of resilient fingers that act as a stop for the second end of the splice cover.
3. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the ferrule having an outer diameter of about 1.25 millimeters.

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4. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, further comprising a connector housing.
5. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, further comprising a connector housing and a trigger, wherein the trigger attaches to the connector housing.
6. (Currently amended) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, further comprising a container for housing and protecting the ferrule block subassembly prior to the assembly process of the fiber optic connector.
7. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the ferrule being held by a first end of the disposable ferrule handling block so that the fiber optic stub extends therefrom.
8. (Currently amended) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the splice cover having at least one aperture for filling in communication with the longitudinal passageway.
9. (Currently amended) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 1, the fiber optic connector being connected to a portion at least one optical fiber of a fiber optic cable.

Claims 10-16 (Canceled).

17. (Currently amended) A field-installable fusion spliced optical fiber optic connector kit comprising:
  - a ferrule block subassembly comprising:
    - a fiber optic stub;
    - a ferrule, the ferrule having a longitudinal bore therethrough, wherein the fiber optic stub is held in the longitudinal bore and an end of the fiber optic stub extends beyond the ferrule; and

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a disposable ferrule handling block, the disposable ferrule handling block being used adapted for holding the ferrule during the an assembly process for a fiber optic connector;

a splice cover handling block subassembly comprising:

a crimp body;

a spring;

a splice cover, the splice cover having a first end and a second end and a longitudinal passage between extending from the first end to the second for housing a fusion splice of the fiber optic stub; and

a disposable splice cover handling block, wherein the disposable splice cover handling block is used adapted for holding the crimp body, the spring, and the splice cover during the assembly process; and

a container for housing and protecting the ferrule block subassembly so that the end of the fiber optic stub that extends beyond the ferrule is not damaged prior to completion of the assembly process of the fiber optic connector.

18. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 17, the disposable splice cover handling block having a first end and a second end, the second end of the disposable splice cover handling block having a plurality of resilient fingers that act as a stop for the first end of the splice cover.

19. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 17, the ferrule having an outer diameter of about 1.25 millimeters.

20. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 17, further comprising a connector housing.

21. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 17, further comprising a connector housing and a trigger, wherein the trigger attaches to the connector housing.

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22. (Original) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 17, the ferrule being held by a first end of the disposable ferrule handling block so that the fiber optic stub extends therefrom.

23. (Currently amended) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 17, the splice cover having at least one aperture ~~for filling in communication with~~ the longitudinal passageway.

24. (Currently amended) The fiber optic connector kit according to claim 17, the fiber optic connector being connected to a ~~portion~~ at least one optical fiber of a fiber optic cable.

Claims 25-28 (Canceled).